THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government is aware of other incidents involving arrest or detention of unskilled Indian workers in Malaysia.

(b) and (c) In each case, the Indian High Commission in Malaysia took up the matter with the local employers as also with the governmnet of Malaysia for intervention. Employers found guilty of violating terms of contract have been blacklisted and recommendation to cancel licenses of corresponding Indian manpower agents made to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India. Since 2001, 103 Malaysian companies have been blacklisted.

Sanctions against Pakistan

3660. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the U.S. Government has lifted sanctions against Pakistan, imposed in 1999 after the military coup;

(b) whether this step has been taken by the U.S. to solicit the support of Pakistan in the Security Council;

(c) whether this decision came a few days after India declared its military unwillingness to permit the U.S. aircrafts, en-route to the Gulf from refueling in its territory; and

(d) if so, the latest position of our relations with U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The U.S. President exercised his authority, conferred by the Pakistan Waiver Act 2001, to waive democracy-related sanctions against Pakistan until 30 september 2003.

(b) It is not for Government to comment on the U.S. motives for the waiver of sanctions. The waiver of sanctions, however, was required to release U.S. financial assistance earlier allocated to pakistan for the current U.S. fiscal year (01 October 2002 to 30 September 2003).

(c) The United States did not seek refuelling facilities in India for its military operations in Iraq.

(d) India and the United States remain committed to the shared goal of completing the process of transforming India-U.S. relations, outlined by Prime Minister and President George Bush in November 2001.

Exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh

3660. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether regarding exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh, there has been any efforts to ratify the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974;

(b) the number of Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi enclaves in India alongwith the area and population, enclave wise;

(c) the factors hampering the smooth and quick exchange of enclaves and the measures taken to overcome them; and

(d) the details of Government's efforts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) There are 111 exchangeable Indian enclaves in Bangladeshi territory and 51 exchangeable Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian territory. Enclave wise area figures are given in Statement-I and II (*See* below). The population figures are not available with the Government as no access to the Indian enclaves in Bangladeshi territory has been provided by Government of Bangladesh for census operations.

(c) and (d) The exchange of enclaves is directly linked to the completion of the joint demarcation of boundary between India and Bangladesh which is a procedural requirement for the ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The Governments of India and Bangladesh have set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups to resolve all pending issues relating to implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 including exchange of enclaves. Two meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups have taken place so far.